

## Message Text

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CH TW US JA UR

SUBJECT: "REFERENCE NEWS" COVERAGE OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DEATH

SUMMARY: USLO HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF APRIL 8, 1975, "REFERENCE NEWS" (TSAN KAO HSIAO HSI) AND IS POUCHING TO HONG KONG FOR TRANSLATION AND ANALYSIS. MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THIS EDITION OF CADRES-ONLY DAILY NEWS SUMMARY IS HEAVY COVERAGE GIVEN TO REACTION IN MAJOR CAPITALS TO CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DEATH. IN CONTRAST, TO SHORT, SOLITARY AND VITRIOLIC PEOPLE'S DAILY ITEM APRIL 7 FOR MASS CONSUMPTION, "REFERENCE NEWS" DEVOTES ONE-QUARTER OF APRIL 8 EDITION TO NEWS AGENCY REPORTS DATED PEKING, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, TOKYO AND TAIPEI. IMPRESSION LEFT BY ITEMS (SOME EDITED) IS OF A PEKING AS DETERMINED AS EVER TO LIBERATE TAIWAN, AN AMERICA WITH DIVIDED OPINION AS TO CHIANG'S MERITS AND THE EFFECT HIS DEATH WILL HAVE ON THE THREE WAY WASHINGTON, PEKING, TAIPEI RELATIONSHIP, A SOVIET UNION WORRIED ABOUT INCREASED PRC INFLUENCE IN ASIA IN THE WAKE OF CKS' DEATH, A TAIWAN FIRMLY UNDER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S CONTROL, AND AJAPAN WHOSE GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE AT PAINS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEIR PRIVATE CONDOLENCES

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AND FUNERAL ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL GOJ REACTION. CHIANG'S

WILL ALSO CARRIED IN FULL, AS WELL AS ITEMS ON YEN CHIAKAN'S ASSUMPTION OF "PUPPET" PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. REFERENCE NEWS COVERAGE OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK DEATH IS INTERESTING AS MIRROR OF PEKING'S CLOSE TRACKING OF REACTION IN MAJOR CAPITALS, AND FOR ITS THOROUGH PRESENTATION TO APPROXIMATELY 7 MILLION CADRE-LEVEL READERS OF "REFERENCE NEWS." FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ITEMS ON CKS DEATH CARRIED IN APRIL 8 "REFERENCE NEWS":

2. FROM PEKING: UNDER CAPTION, AFP'S ROMENSKY SAYS CKS' DEATH WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON CHINA'S DETERMINATION TO LIBERATE TAIWAN", LEAD ARTICLE (DATELINED AFP, PEKING APRIL 6) STATES THAT THE DIRECTION CHIANG CHING-KUO TAKES MAY AFFECT THE METHODS WHICH PEOPLE'S CHINA ADOPTS FOR UNIFICATION, THAT AT PRESENT PEKING HAS CHOSEN GRADUAL AND LONG-TERM APPROACH BUT WOULD REACT STRONGLY TO ANY ATTEMPT TO TURN TAIWAN INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATION, AND THAT KMT'S PRESENT VIEW THAT TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA ARE ONE NATION IS CONSONANT WITH PEKING'S DESIRES, HENCE PEKING CAN CONTINUE TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. ROMENSKY QUOTES SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE AND STATES THAT PEKING LEADERS HAVE IN PAST POINTED OUT TO FOREIGN VISITORS, ESPECIALLY AMERICANS, THAT THEY HAVE PATIENCE", BUT THAT AT THE SAME TIME THEY RESERVE THE RIGHT TO USE ANY MEANS TO UNITE SHINA. HE CLOSSES WITH STATEMENT THAT IN PEKING'S VIEW THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN "THAT CLIQUE" BECAUSE THERE IS A NEW LEADER.

3. FROM WASHINGTON: THREE ITEMS ARE CARRIED UNDER CAPTION, "U.S. PRESIDENT FORD CIRCUSSES CKS' DEATH; U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE THERE WILL BE NO IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN SINO-U.S. OR SINO-TAIWAN RELATIONS":

A. AP, WASHINGTON, APRIL 5. PRESIDENT FORD SAYS CKS' DEATH HAS LEFT HIM DEEPLY SADDENED. PRAISES CKS AS AN UPRIGHT, COURAGEOUS MAN WITH STRONG POLITICAL CONVICTIONS, SAYS HIS PASSING HAS CLOSED AN ERA IN CHINESE HISTORY, AND CONCLUDES CKS WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS MORAL VIRTUE AND SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE FOR THE PRINCIPLES HE BELIEVED IN. CONFIDENTIAL

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B. UPI, WASHINGTON, APRIL 5. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY CKS DEATH WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN OR PEKING. HOWEVER, THEY ADMIT THAT FINAL EFFECT OF CHIANG'S DEATH MIGHT BE TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE RESTORATION OF WASHINGTON-PEKING RELATIONS EASIER, AND PERHAPS SIMPLIFY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TAIWAN AND MAINLAND. FOR SEVERAL YEARS CKS WAS PRESIDENT

IN NAME ONLY, WHILE REAL POWER WAS IN HANDS OF CHIANG CHING-KUO. THUS, U.S.-TAIWAN LINKS WILL NOT BE BROKEN BY CKS' DEATH.

C. UPI, WASHINGTON, APRIL 5. ARTICLE QUOTES SENATOR HUMPHREY THAT POWER STRUGGLE MAY ENSUE AFTER CKS DEATH AND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME BASIC CHANGES IN TAIWAN-MAINLAND CHINA RELATIONS. HUMPHREY STATES CKS DEATH PERHAPS PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY. ARTICLE QUOTES EX-SENATOR FULBRIGHT THAT CKS DEATH MAY MAKE SOLUTION OF TWO CHINA PROBLEM EASIER SINCE CKS WAS SYMBOL OF OLD REGIME, BUT U.S. POLICY WILL PROBABLY NOT CHANGE. QUOTES SENATOR SYMINGTON THAT CKS DEATH WILL PRODUCE NO EFFECT ON U.S. POLICY. U.S. POLICY AT PRESENT IS TO RECOGNIZE PRC IN EVER GREATER DEGREE. QUOTES SENATOR FONG THAT CKS DEATH WILL HAVE NOT GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TOWARD PRESENT U.S. POLICIES.

4. FROM MOSCOW: THREE ITEMS ARE CARRIED UNDER CAPTION: "FOREIGN WIRE SERVICES COMMENT ON SOVIET REVISIONISTS' REACTION TO CKS' DEATH:"

A. JJI TOKYO, APRIL 6: SOVIET REACTION TO CKS IS COMPLICATED. NO REASON TO EXPRESS PUBLIC GRIEF, BUT SOVIET UNION PROBABLY WORRIED THAT CKS DEATH WILL ALLOW FURTHER EXPANSION OF PRC INFLUENCE IN ASIA. ARTICLE DISCUSSES EFFECT CKS DEATH MAY HAVE ON SOVIET HOPES FOR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND CONCLUSION OF EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER.

B. REUTERS, MOSCOW, APRIL 5: CKS DEATH WILL NOT NECESSARILY INFLUENCE SOVIET VIEWS ON FUTURE STATUS OF TAIWAN. CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS WILL CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE PEKING FOR ITS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM TO LIBERATE THE ISLAND AS ONE OF MANY POINTS IN SOVIET POLICY OF ATTACKING CHINA.

C. AFP, MOSCOW, APRIL 6: MOSCOW CANNOT BE PLEASED THAT FOREIGNERS HERE UNANIMOUSLY BELIEVE CKS' DEATH MIGHT ASSIST IN IMPROVING SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. SOVIETS HAVE NEVER ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, BUT HAVE OFTEN USED THAT ISLAND AS A REASON TO OPPOSE MAINLAND CHINA.

5. FROM TOKYO: REFERENCE NEWS CARRIED THREE SUMMARIZED ITEMS:

A. JJI, TOKYO, APRIL 6: PRIMIN MIKI IN CAPACITY OF LDP CHAIRMAN SENDS TELEGRAM OF CONDOLENCE.

B. UPI, TOKYO, APRIL 6: PRIMIN MIKI UNWILLING TO MAKE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON CKS DEATH, BUT SAID HE WOULD SEND TELEGRAM OF CONDOLENCE IN CAPACITY OF LDP CHAIRMAN. SAID WOULD NOT SEND OFFICIAL GOJ REPRESENTATIVES TO TAIPEI, BUT WOULD SEND LDP PARTY REPRESENTATIVE CARRYING PRIVATE MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE.

C. KYODO, TOKYO, APRIL 6: REPORTS LDP PARTY INITIAL DECISION TO SEND EX-PRIMIN SATO AS PARTY REPRESENTATIVE TO TAIWAN FOR CKS FUNERAL.

6. REFERENCE NEWS CARRIES THREE CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (TAIWAN) ITEMS AND ONE REUTERS ITEM (TAIPEI, APRIL 6) ON YEN CHIAKAN'S ACCESSION TO PRESIDENCY WITH CAPTION, "YEN CHIA-KAN TAKES OFFICE AS PSUEDO-PRESIDENT AND ISSUES STATEMENT" REUTERS SAYS "YEN CHIA-KAN IS A PUPPET PRESIDENT, CHIANG CHING-KUO IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE GOVERNMENT." ITEMS CARRIED INCLUDE YEN'S STATEMENT UPON ASSUMING OFFICE.

7. CKS' WILL IS CARRIED IN FULL (CNA, TAIPEI, APRIL 6) ALONG WITH UPI ITEM ON MILITARY ALERT AND INCREASE IN ROC PATROLS IN TAIWAN STRAITS (UPI, TAIPEI, APRIL 6).  
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## Message Attributes

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